Water Safety Information

Water sources that have come into contact with flood water should be considered unsafe for ANY consumption purposes. Flood waters pose various risks, including infectious disease, chemical hazards and injuries. To protect yourself and your family:

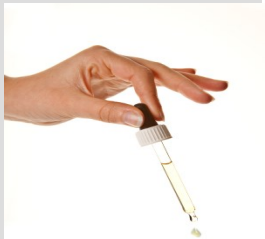
- Practice good hygiene (handwashing) after contact with flood waters.
- Do not allow children to play in flood water areas.
- Wash children's hands frequently (always before meals). Do not allow children to play with toys that have been contaminated by flood water and have not been disinfected.
- For information on disinfecting certain nonporous toys, visit CDC Healthy Water's Cleaning and Sanitizing with Bleach section.

Use Clean Water for Everything

Drinking Water

All water possibly contaminated by flooding must be disinfected, whether from wells, springs, or cisterns. Bottled water which has not been in contact with flood water may be used for drinking, hand washing, and cooking/ware utensils. Water should be treated by one of the two methods given below (Note: if the water is excessively turbid (cloudy or colored), it may be difficult to sanitize.)

1. Boil water for five minutes and store in a clean container. The flat taste can be eliminated by shaking the water in a bottle or pouring it from one container to another.
2. Mix 5 drops of household bleach with 1 quart of water (or 20 drops per gallon) and let stand for at least five minutes (preferably 30 minutes to an hour) or longer before drinking. Bleach should be unscented and free of detergents or additives. This water will be suitable for drinking, hand washing, and for washing pots and utensils.



An insulated beverage container with a bottom spigot is useful for storing a small supply of drinking and culinary water.

Questions

If you have any questions regarding well water quality call FCCHD at 751-8130 and request to speak to a Sanitarian or Health Officer.

Emergency information will be distributed via radio, flatheadhealth.org, FCCHD Facebook page, television and newspaper.

Disinfecting Water After a Flood

1035 1st Ave West
Kalispell, MT 59901
406-751-8101
flatheadhealth.org

Well and Pump Inspection

Flood Conditions at the Well - Swiftly moving flood water can carry large debris that could loosen well hardware, dislodge well construction materials or distort casing. Coarse sediment in the flood waters could erode pump components. If the well is not tightly capped, sediment and flood water could enter the well and contaminate it. Wells that are more than 10 years old or less than 50 feet deep are likely to be contaminated, even if there is no apparent damage. Floods may cause some wells to collapse.

Electrical System - After flood waters have receded and the pump and electrical system have dried, do not turn on the equipment until the wiring system has been checked by a qualified electrician, well contractor, or pump contractor. If the pump's control box was submerged during the flood all electrical components must be dry before electrical service can be restored. Get assistance in turning the pump on from a well or pump contractor.

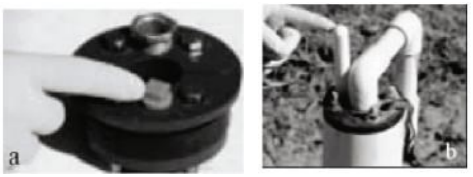
Pump Operation - All pumps and their electrical components can be damaged by sediment and flood water. The pump including the valves and gears will need to be cleaned of silt and sand. If pumps are not cleaned and properly lubricated they can burn out. Get assistance from a well or pump contractor who will be able to clean, repair or maintain different types of pumps.

Well Disinfection

Step 1 If your water is muddy or cloudy, run the water from an outside spigot with a hose attached until the water becomes clear and free of sediments.

Step 2 Materials needed are non-scented household liquid bleach, according to directions, rubber gloves, eye protection, old clothes and a funnel.

Step 3 Determine what type of well you have and how to pour the bleach into the well. Some wells have a sanitary seal with either an air vent or a plug that can be removed (a). If it is a bored or dug well, the entire cover can be lifted off to provide a space for pouring the bleach into the well (b).



Step 4 Take the gallon of bleach and funnel (if needed) and carefully pour the bleach down into the well casing.

Step 5 After the bleach has been added, run water from an outside hose into the well casing until you smell chlorine coming from the hose. Then turn off the outside hose. If hose is not available dilute bleach with at least 5 gallons of water.

Step 6 Turn on all cold water faucets, inside and outside of house, until the chlorine odor is detected in each faucet, then shut them all off. If you have a water treat-ment system, switch it to bypass before turning on the indoor faucets.

Step 7 Wait 6 to 24 hours before turning the faucets back on. **It is important not to drink, cook, bathe or wash with this water during the time period — it contains high amounts of chlorine.**

Step 8 Once the waiting period is up, turn on an outside spigot with hose attached and run the water into a safe area where it will not disturb plants, lakes, streams or septic tanks. **Run the water until there is no longer a chlorine odor.** Turn the water off.

Step 9 The system should now be disinfected, and you can now use the water.

Step 10 Have your water tested for bacteria 7 to 10 days after disinfection.
For more information **www.epa.gov/safewater**

WARNING!

DO NOT TURN ON THE PUMP

There is a danger of electrical shock and damage to your well or pump if they have been flooded.

WARNING!

DO NOT WASH WITH WELL WATER

People drinking or washing with water from a well that has been flooded are at risk of becoming ill.

Disinfectant Solutions Summary:

(Household bleach 5.25% – 6% sodium hypochlorite)

Depth of water in Well (ft)	4" Casing	6" Casing	8" Casing
5 feet	1 cup	1 cup	1 ½ cup
10	1 cup	1 cup	1 ½ cup
15	1 cup	1 cup	1 ½ cup
20	1 cup	1 cup	2 cups
30	1 cup	2 cups	4 cups
40	1 ½ cups	2 cups	1 qt
60	2 cups	4 cups	2 qt
80	2 cups	1 qt	2 qt
100	3 cups	1 ½ qt	2 ½ qt
150	4 cups	2 ½ qt	4 qt

Depth of water in Well (ft)	24" Dug Well	36" Dug Well	48" Dug Well
5 feet	4 cups	3 qt	5 qt
10	3 qt	6 qt	2 ½ gal
15	4 qt	2 gal	4 gal
20	5 qt	--	--